

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9130

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV PINT PE

SUBJ: INTERIOR MINISTRY DENIES RUMORS OF DISUNITY WITHIN GOP

1. INTERIOR MINISTER CISNEROS TOLD REPORTERS MARCH 10 THAT WHILE THERE WERE "DIFFERENCES OF OPINION" WITHIN THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT, FINAL DECISIONS WERE ACCEPTED "ABSOLUTELY" BY MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT. CISNEROS' COMMENTS WERE APPARENTLY PROMPTED BY RUMORS THAT HE HAD OFFERED TO RESIGN OR WAS IN DANGER OF BEING REMOVED BECAUSE OF HIS HARDLINE VIEWS ON THE LEFT IN GENERAL AND LABOR AND POLITICAL AMNESTY IN PARTICULAR.

2. CISNEROS ASSERTED THAT RECENT RUMORS OF CABINET CONFLICT STEMMED FROM A MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE WAY THE "SECOND PHASE" GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ FUNCTIONS. HE NOTED THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT WERE FREE TO EXPRESS DIFFERENT OPINIONS BEFORE A DECISION WAS MADE, BUT THAT AFTERWARDS THE GOVERNMENT ACTED AS "ONE BODY" IN IMPLEMENTING THE WILL OF THE MAJORITY. HE ADDED THAT HE HELD HIS CABINET POSITION AT THE PLEASURE OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE ARMY COMMAND AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO UNTIL THEY DETERMINED OTHERWISE.

3. ASKED ABOUT THE RECENT RESIGNATION OF HIS BROTHER, DR. LUIS JAIME CISNEROS, AS DIRECTOR OF THE GOP-CONTROLLED

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NEWSPAPER LA PRENSA, THE INTERIOR MINISTER SAID SIMPLY THAT HIS BROTHER HAD COMPLETED TWO YEARS AS LA PRENSA DIRECTOR AND HAD DECIDED THE TIME WAS APPROPRIATE TO RETURN TO HIS FORMER UNIVERSITY POST.

4. COMMENT. CISNERO'S EFFORT TO CHARACTERIZE THE WIDELY REPORTED CABINET CONFLICTS AS "FREE DEBATE" WITHIN THE TOP LEVEL OF

GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HIDE THE FACT THAT DISAGREEMENT CONTINUES
AMONG CABINET MEMBERS ABOUT HOW TO DEAL WITH THE LEFT,
ESPECIALLY ON THE SENSITIVE ISSUES OF LABOR AMNESTY AND
THE EXTENT OF POLITICAL AMNESTY.

DECON 12/31/78. SHLAUDEMAM

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